Chukchee, Koryak 101 563

material life of the Maritime Chukchee, who number approximately 3,000, is completely the same as that of the Eskimo. They use the same leather boat, the kayak, and the metal harpoon with a float made of an inflated sealskin, and many other things. On the other hand the Reindeer Chuckchee are completely nomadic and have shown themselves to be extraordinarily good reindeer breeders. They number only about 9,000, but they have around half a million reindeer. But still reindeer breeding does not appear to have been their original sphere, for many idioms as well as marks of their dwelling indicate that they also once lived on the banks of the sea; reindeer breeding was perhaps taken over later from the neighboring Tungus. Thus, /109/ as Bogoras (37) reports, the interior of the sleeping section of [501] [174].

37. V. Bogoras. The Chukchee (New York, 1904/1908).

the tent is designated as the "skin of the white bear" by the Reindeer Chukchee, even though at present not bear skin but rather only reindeer skin serves as walls and bed covering both for the Reindeer and the Maritime Chukchee. Peculiar is the belief of the Chukchee that a life after death is attained only by a person who has had a violent death, and it was not long ago that, out of a kind of sympathy, they killed their own people who were weakened by age or unfit for life; this custom is also reported among the North American Eskimo. The Chukchee, Koryak, and Kamchadal generally show many traits related to those of the Indians of northwest America, and it is for this reason that Bogoras classifies as "Americanoid" the entire group of Paleoasiatics, including the Gilyak mentioned earlier.1/ Myths and sagas coincide both in content and in form, often down to details, with those of the northwest American Indians. Accordingly the assumption should not be dismissed that the Chukchee, Koryak, and Kamchadal once were immediate neighbors of the Indians, and that only at a later time did the Eskimo shove in between them. [761] [171]

The Koryak, now also designated as Nymylan, occupy the northern half of Kamchatka and the adjacent continent. Their number is estimated at around 10,000. Like the Chukchee they are divided in half into the Maritime Koryak and the Reindeer Koryak. The former are sedentary and above all fishermen, and their life approaches in significant measure that of the Eskimo. They also hunt sea animals such as the walrus, the seal, and occasionally also the whale. They are already extensively absorbed into the Russian culture and live

1/ [Cf. cat. 116, pp. 118-119 -- Analyst]

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when the salmon run begins, festivals of joy and work begin for young and old. As a rule the fish are caught in fixed traps, which are drawn across the river so that the way is barred for the fish as they go upstream. The fish press together in great masses in front of this weir and are caught with simple scoop nets. The common drying place is never empty, for it is important to preserve as many fish as possible for the entire year by drying them. In addition, an older method is still used occasionally: the fish are buried in the earth and there becomes sour; hence there is a kind of fish silo from which fish can be fetched during the winter as needed. A penetrating fish smell fills the entire settlement, and there is no end to eating during the catching season. It is not too much to say that the Kamchadal live on fish and tea. The dog, the most important domestic animal and beast of burden for all sedentary native northeast Siberians, is also fed on fish. The number of dogs is considered as the mark of wealth. There are families which have 200 to 300 dogs, which are housed in a pen near the house and fill the entire region with their hoarse barking. It is inadvisable for strangers to go near these half-wild animals. At present the horse is spreading more and more and is beginning to displace the dog as the beast of burden. Through the state organization of fishing and the introduction of modern methods, large sections of the Koryak have also been incorporated and placed in a new order. Many have also turned to agriculture and cattle-breeding. [226] [251] [231]

/111/ The Asiatic Eskimo live on the banks of Bering Strait and occupy 17 villages with approximately 1,600 people. They extended much further formerly; and it is for this reason that there are Eskimo names for places now occupied by Maritime Chukchee. The displacement of the Eskimo must have been done simply by force, for the sagas of the Chukchee are filled with reports of hard battles with the Eskimo, battles which, however, ended long before the entrance of the Russians. Today the two peoples live harmoniously beside one another in separate villages. The Asiatic Eskimo differ from their relatives in Alaska in their speech but culturally they form a unit with them. With their life completely directed toward the sea, they seldom go into the interior of the land; for such occasions they use dog sleds. On the Commander Islands live approximately 500 Aleut, who, according to their language, are related to the Eskimo. They, too, live completely from catching sea animals, since the islands offer them only birds. [174]

As has already been said, the Buryat Mongols have a cultural